

Notes from Upper Rio Grande Basin Water Operations Review Interdisciplinary NEPA Team Meeting; April 11, 2002; 1:00 PM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In Attendance:

Neal Ackerly, Dos Rios/Corps

Carolyn Brumfield, Corps

Mike Buntjer, USFWS

Art Coykendall, USBR

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Darrell Eidson, Corps

Susan Goodan, SAIC/Corps

Rhea Graham, NMISC

Ernie Jahnke, Corps

Anne Janik, USBR

Jon Kehmeier, SWCA/NMISC

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps

Bill Leibfried, SWCA/NMISC

Colleen Logan, Weston/Corps

Julie Maitland, NMDA

Clay Mathers, Corps

Brian Ortiz, USFWS

Chris Perez, USFWS

Gary Rutherford, Corps

Gail Stockton, Corps

Scott Waltemeyer, USGS

❖ Gail Stockton opened the meeting and asked for comments on the notes from the March meeting.

❖ Action items from previous meeting



- Rhea Graham asked that **all tech team members review the roster that was handed out and provide any corrections or updated information to one of the Project Managers.** She asked that team leaders **note the date that members left the team instead of just removing them from the list.** This information will be added to the database to keep the list up-to-date and to keep track of all team members for inclusion in the EIS.



- Tech team members were asked to provide **any corrections or additions to the list of aerial photography**, as well as team needs for additional aerial photography, to the Project Managers as soon as possible.
 - Art Coykendall reported that the USFWS will be funding a flight from Bernardo to Velarde this spring/summer, and will fly the Rio Chama with leaf cover next fiscal year.
 - Clay Mathers told the group that the Corps has all of the black and white DOQQs for New Mexico now (1:12,000 scale). He will be developing an index. If any tech team needs coverage in a specific location, contact Clay.
- Ellen Dietrich will work on developing the contour map of Abiquiu Reservoir from cross-section data provided by Don Gallegos. The survey data will generate a map that will have to be adjusted using the pre-inundation quad sheets, but should get the process started.
- Clay distributed copies of the GIS data drawings that were developed at the last meeting. He has also worked with some tech team members since the last meeting. Teams can use these to see what other teams plan to acquire and how they plan to use it, as well as to build on what they have developed.

- ❖ Rhea gave a short update on the public meetings that are being held to discuss the draft alternatives.
 - So far, attendance has been low, but those who have attended have had good questions and comments.
 - The upcoming meetings are scheduled for Española and Abiquiu on April 16 and 17. Tech team members who want to attend should arrive by 6 p.m. The meeting in Abiquiu will be held after another meeting to discuss plans for water operations for the year.
 - Meeting times and locations are listed on the URGWOPS web site. There will be a tour of Abiquiu Dam and the hydropower generating plant in the morning preceding the meeting.
- ❖ Tech team reports on activities
 - Cultural Resources—Neal Ackerly
 - The draft of Chapter 3 from the Water Quality Tech Team has been submitted to the tribes for review but no responses have been received yet.
 - Neal developed a draft letter for the Project Managers to offer follow-on meetings to tribes and pueblos and initial meetings for those who have not participated in the “meet and greet” meetings yet. They plan to update the tribes about URGWOPS with quarterly letters.
 - Neal has been working with Tim Seaman at NM Office of Cultural Affairs to obtain archaeological site data. Tim is also working on digitizing and attributing GIS data to document where surveys have been completed. This will help the team determine what assumptions would be appropriate where no data are present, by providing a basis for interpolation where there are gaps in spatial data.
 - Riparian and Wetlands—Art Coykendall
 - The team will meet next week.
 - They have been working on information for Chapter 3.
 - Chris Perez reported that the USFWS is working on a draft Planning Aid letter for URGWOPS.
 - Socioeconomics, Land Use, Recreation, Agriculture—Gary Rutherford
 - The team met on a conference call in March and discussed their data needs.
 - Gary met with technical staff to discuss how to analyze hydropower.
 - Gail asked if the team had met with Art Martinez of the BIA to discuss how to address subsistence and subsistence agriculture (includes ranching) in their narrative and analysis. They plan to schedule a meeting with Art soon.
 - Water Quality—Jon Kehmeier
 - The team has revised their study plan and is working on identifying funds to complete it.
 - They are waiting for comments on their measures and practices from the Water Operations Tech Team.
 - Geomorphology—Darrell Eidson
 - The next meeting will be a field trip of the river in the middle valley. **If anyone is interested in participating, they should meet at the Corps building at 8:00 a.m. on May 7.**



- Hydrology and Hydraulics—Carolyn Brumfield
 - Doug Wolf is calibrating the Flo-2D model that will be used in the middle valley. He will soon generate the first set of data to be used to develop the impact maps.
 - Carolyn is working on obtaining (old) data to generate maps of the Rio Chama to use as a starting point for identifying inundation levels under high flows. This could be used until a better hydraulic model with new data is developed for this reach.
- Aquatic Systems—Bill Leibfried
 - The team met on Tuesday (4/9) and discussed progress in data collection for the aquatic habitat model. The contractor has collected data at the Rio Chama site for medium and low flows.
 - They may have some funding to begin surveying and sampling a second site on the Chama below Ojo Caliente.
 - They are working on writing Chapter 3, filling in gaps in data, and using this to modify their study plan.
 - Ernie Jahnke is taking Rick Fike's place as the Corps co-team leader.
 - The team is working on developing a list of "fish of management concern". They plan to have the NM Game and Fish staff review it and help prioritize the list to include sport fish that they should be considering during impact analysis. This may also be of interest to the recreation and socioeconomics analyses.
- Water Operations—Rhea and Gail
 - There was a presentation at the last meeting by the Corps on levees in the middle valley.
 - ➡ **▪ The Land Use Tech Team members should coordinate with the Operations Tech Team on flood control and their concerns over levee failure.**
 - In the EIS, it may be a good idea to include a map of the levees, but no GIS data are available on their locations now.
 - The Corps and Reclamation staff are evaluating the levees and may be able to provide information on their vulnerability that can be incorporated into the analysis.
 - Flo-2D may be able to model and identify locations of possible levee failures under specific flows, but the data would need to be provided by the teams or agencies first. Instead of modeling all levees, it would be more efficient to identify the likely areas of inundation and only collect data there. If some of these locations were on tribal land, consultation with that tribe would need to be completed.
- GIS—Clay Mathers
 - Clay is working out the system for scanning documents for the administrative record.
 - All tech teams should coordinate their plans and work on GIS through the GIS tech team.
 - Clay asked that all teams review the "cartoon" GIS drawings and associated documentation from other teams to learn what they are planning. The drawings and other information provide instructions to GIS staff on how the team plans to use the data and what data should be used to analyze impacts and develop useful maps.

- Comments on tech team work from the Project Managers
 - All tech team leaders should check to ensure that the latest version of their study plan is posted on Team Link.
 - Tech team members should be using other NEPA documents as sources for data.
 - Colleen Logan from Weston will be taking over for Pam Ramos and will be contacting tech teams to get the latest version of their study plans.
 - Tech team members can contact Colleen for passwords or problems with Team Link.
- ❖ In the morning URGWOM Steering Committee meeting, Mark Yuska, URGWOM Technical Team Leader, said that they “need from URGWOPS, operators, and biologists, the logic for storing and releasing Rio Grande Conservation water, on the long-term planning horizon, to build rules and constraints in the models.”
- ❖ **The next meeting of the ID NEPA Team will be held on May 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the Corps.**